

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled)

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A breathable pad comprising:

a flat flexible porous support, and

a layer of gel which is applied directly to one surface of said flat flexible porous support; wherein said gel comprises:

50 wt% to 77 wt% water,

6.5 wt% to 44 wt% of a dermatologically compatible polymer, and

~~wherein said gel further comprises~~

a volatile substance selected from an essential plant oil or an aromatic plant extract;

~~which is drawn out and released through the flexible porous support when the gel layer of the breathable pad is applied to skin~~

wherein the pad is configured so that evaporation of water occurs through the flexible porous support and said volatile substance is drawn out and released from the pad as a vapour.

Claim 42-45 (Cancelled)

Claim 46 (New): The breathable pad of claim 41, which comprises a removable protective film of siliconized polyester.

Claim 47 (New): An airtight wrapper containing the breathable pad of claim 41.

Claim 48 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said flexible porous support a flexible porous support is a non-woven fabric comprising viscose, polyester, polyethylene, mixed polyester/viscose, cotton, and/or linen fibers, wherein said flexible porous support has a thickness between 15 and 200 microns, a density from 65 to 145 g/dm³ and a weight between 15 and 200 g/m².

Claim 49 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said gel comprises sodium alginate or calcium alginate, or both.

Claim 50 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said gel comprises polyvinyl alcohol or carboxymethylcellulose.

Claim 51 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said gel comprises sodium polyacrylate or polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

Claim 52 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said gel comprises between 5 and 10% of an essential plant oil or an aromatic plant extract.

Claim 53 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said volatile substance comprises an essential oil of *Eucalyptus*.

Claim 54 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said volatile substance comprises an essential oil of clove.

Claim 55 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said volatile substance comprises an essential oil of black pepper.

Claim 56 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said gel contains a cicatrising amount of carboxymethyl betaglucan.

Claim 57 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41 which is configured substantially as a patch as shown in Fig. 2.

Claim 58 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said volatile substance is one that exerts a decongestant effect when the gel layer of the pad is applied to the skin and the volatile substance is released through the flexible porous support.

Claim 59 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 41, wherein said flexible porous support is a fabric imbibed with a volatile substance selected from an essential plant oil or an aromatic plant extract which exerts a decongestant effect the pad is applied to the skin and the volatile substance released.

Claim 60 (New): A method for providing a decongestant action comprising externally applying the breathable pad of Claim 41 to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 61 (New): A method for providing a skin repairing or cicatrising action comprising externally applying the breathable pad of Claim 41 to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): A breathable pad consisting of:

a flat flexible porous support,
a layer of gel which is applied directly to one surface of said flat flexible porous support, and, optionally,
a removable protective film;
wherein said gel comprises:
50 wt% to 77 wt% water,
6.5 wt% to 44 wt% of a dermatologically compatible polymer, and
a volatile substance selected from an essential plant oil or an aromatic plant extract;
wherein the pad is configured so that evaporation of water occurs through the flexible porous support and said volatile substance is drawn out and released from the pad as a vapour.

Claim 63 (New): The breathable pad of claim 62, which comprises a removable protective film of siliconized polyester.

Claim 64 (New): An airtight wrapper containing the breathable pad of claim 62.